MEMBER: It is three miles away.

DEWAN: If a private agency runs a school anywhere in the town to suit the convenience of the people of Vaikcm, the Director will consider the question of grant-in-aid.

The question of Higher Grade Vernacular Schools at Kallara and Idayazham has been referred to the Inspector of Schools whose report is awaited.

In regard to the dispensary at Kaduthuruthi, I have nothing to add to what I said on the same subject last year.

122. Needs of the Kottayam taluk, Group II.

MR. DEVASIA VARKEY (*Member, Kottayam taluk, Group II*) said that a dispensary was established at Atirampuzha about twenty years ago in recognition of the importance of the place. Atirampuzha was then the most important place in the Ettumanur taluk. It had grown in importance since then and had become the seat of a market and two or three schools; there were also a big printing press and several schools at Mannanam close by. Atirampuzha was also a place which had easy communication both by water and by land with the neighbouring villages. In spite of all these facts the Medical Board had recommended the removal of the Atirampuzha dispensary to the neighbourhood of the Ettumanur temple. Apart from the facilities at Atirampuzha, the proposed site near the temple was one not accessible to all classes of people. The dispensary should therefore be retained at Atirampuzha, and it had moreover to be converted into a district hospital. If this was not possible, a qualified doctor should be appointed and a new building should be provided for the hospital.

Secondly, the member requested that the water-lock in the Pennar todu should be repaired early, and sufficient funds provided for the maintenance of the water-lock and the canal every year.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Devasia Varkey, the idea of transferring the Atirampuzha dispensary to Ettumanur which the Administrative Board, Medical Services, at one time entertained, has since been dropped.

With regard to the Pennar todu and lock, I think it is rather an important matter and a difficult question and I should like the present Chief Engineer also to investigate the matter.

To go back to the Atirampuzha dispensary, the Administrative Board do not think that a necessity exists at present for converting it into a hospital now.

123. Needs of the Kottayam town.

MR. M. M. ABRAHAM MALIAKAL (*Member, Municipal Council, Kottayam*) speaking on the present condition of the District Hospital, Kottayam, said that a resident medical officer, one more lady doctor, a qualified nurse, and two more compounders should be appointed in the hospital. There were already a few nurses in the hospital, but in the opinion of the member, none of them was qualified for the work. He therefore proposed that, besides appointing an additional qualified nurse, two of the present nurses should be transferred to some other hospitals and two qualified nurses appointed in their stead. So far as accommodation in the hospital was concerned, it was entirely insufficient. The whole building had to be demolished and reconstructed, and at least a dozen kitchens had to be provided. In this connection, the member emphasised the need for the Inspecting Medical Officer paying constant visits to medical institutions, examining their needs and bringing them to the notice of Government.

The member next took up the question of constructing a good sub-jail at Kottayam. The present lock-up had only four rooms each 12 feet by 8 feet in size. In each of these rooms, no fewer than twenty-eight prisoners were shut up. The rooms were never washed or cleaned. Nor were the prisoners given good meals. There were also no arrangements for washing their cloth and cropping their hair. A spacious sub-jail with sufficient accommodation should therefore be put up.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly